

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Council Legislative Session
Minutes
October 14, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:24 pm in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Present were Mr. Taiani, Ms. Trice, Ms. Grannemann, Mr. Shattuck, Ms. Macklin, Mayor John Thompson and President, Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson. Amanda Ford, Interim Borough Manager and Michael J. Witherel, Solicitor were also present. Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Moore were absent. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance led by President Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson, a moment of silence was observed to remember victims of violent crime.

PRESENTATION

- Blight Management Program – Danny King and partner (via cell phone) presented the program scope of work.
- Social Media Policy “Draft” for Art’s Commission – Alex Sandoval – Coro Fellow – Absent. Copy of draft placed in Council packets. Place on agenda for next scheduled meeting.
- Municipal Insurance Program – Rick Scott – EHD – Engle-Hambright & Davies, Inc. – Comments on the Borough’s current insurance coverage and expressed an interest to assist the borough with reductions in premium by reviewing the current plans.

➤ Follow up with Interim Manager to set-up a meeting for further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Julia McAfee – 421 Kelly Avenue – Comments against the Ordinance on Feeding Wild Animals and Feral Cats.
2. Kaley Kaczynski – 637 Chislett Street – Comments on program that she runs Pets for Life. Exist in 34 other cities in the United States; one being Pittsburgh covering (East Liberty, Homewood and Wilkinsburg). Last year program spray and neuter over 700 animals. Offered to help Wilkinsburg with current issue of feral cats at no cost to the Borough. Receive a \$50,000 dollar grant from Hesburg Charities. I’m here to help.

3. Gia Medwid – Here to comment on save the ferel cats. Everyone else has done a good job no need for me to comment.
4. Donna Prisezal – Reserve my comments for Dr. Becky Morrow to speak on ferel cats.
5. Joni Rabmontz – 7721 Edgar Drive – Comments to express that Council look further in to solutions to preserve ferel cats’ livelihood.
6. Linda Atkins – 2021 Keadon Drive – Discussion on item under Old Business – Residential Parking and the status on Council’s decision. Not in support of this ordinance.
7. Kristina Paris – I was here to speak on cats.
8. Dr. Becky Morrow – 600 Forbes Avenue – Scientist studying ferel cats. Offered services to trap cats to spray and neuter cats. Over 800 cats are cared for \$25 per/cat, offer clinics for pet care.
9. Pam Amicarella – 153 Coal Valley Rd Baldwin Borough – Comments on ferel cats. Provided information to control ferel cats.
10. Stephanie Bruninghaus – 2308 Sherbrook Street – Information to assist with drafting a policy for ferel cats. Affiliated with Animal Rescue League. Chp. 835 to feeding Ferel Cats and Wild Animals.
11. Jeanne Drennen – 816 S. Trenton Avenue – Shade Tree Committee – Requesting increase in budget support for 2016 tree maintenance.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approving September Checks Issued:

September 1-30, 2015	\$364,905.96
Payroll Disbursements	\$268,219.58
Payroll Disbursements Quarterly P/R Taxes	\$0.00
Voided Checks	(\$74.58)
 Total Disbursement	 \$633,050.96

Moved: Mr. Taiani

Second: Ms. Grannemann

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Trice – No; Mr. Taiani – Yes; Ms. Grannemann – Yes; Mr. Shattuck – Yes; Ms. Macklin – No; President McCarthy-Johnson – No; Ms. Garrett – Yes; Mr. Lefebvre – Absent.

Roll Call Vote; 4 Yes and 3 Nay. Motion carried.

- Ms. Garrett – What happens when the vote does not pass?
- Solicitor Michael Witherel – We can discuss that when it happens.
- President McCarthy-Johnson – It did not pass last week; so what happens when that occurs. Would you please address this issue at the next Council meeting?
- Solicitor Witherel – Yes, I will address.

2. Approving Resolution No. 15-061 – Establishing the contribution rate of the Wilkinsburg Police Officer's Pension Fund for calendar year 2015 at 6.5%.

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second: Ms. Grannemann

All voted in favor of the motion; 7 – 0. Motion carried.

3. Approving Resolution No. 15-062 – VPRP application for 431 Biddle Avenue.

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second: Mr. Shattuck

All voted in favor of the vote; 7 – 0.

4. Approving Resolution No. 15-063 – Appointing Neal Smalley to serve a three-year term on the Shade Tree Committee effective 10/14/2015 through 10/14/2018.

Moved: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Ms. Macklin

All voted in favor of the motion; 7 – 0. Motion carried.

5. Approving Resolution No. 15-064 – Railroad Underpass Study final invoice in the amount of \$2,337.03.

Moved: Mr. Taiani

Second: Mr. Shattuck

All voted in favor of the motion; 7 – 0. Motion carried.

6. Approving Resolution No. 15-065 – Compliance Management Intl Inc., as the lowest bidder for asbestos inspections in the amount of \$9,946.00.

Moved: Mr. Shattuck

Second: Ms. Macklin

All voted in favor of the motion; 7 – 0. Motion carried.

7. Approving Resolution No. 15-066 – Use of Wallace Avenue Lot – Big Whip Riders/Afro Dogs Bike Association.

Moved: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Ms. Macklin

All voted in favor of the motion; 7 – 0. Motion carried.

- President McCarthy-Johnson – Event is approved by Parks and Recreations with all necessary document of insurance liability before approved by Council.

8. Approving Resolution No. 15-067 – Use of Wallace Avenue Lot – American Pastoral Production, LLC.

Moved: Ms. Trice

Second: Mr. Shattuck

All voted in favor of the motion; 7 – 0. Motion carried.

9. Approving Resolution No. 15-068 – Street Closure – Zoe Mizuho.

Moved: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Mr. Shattuck

All voted in favor of the motion; 7 – 0. Motion carried.

10. Approving Resolution No. 15-069 – Sponsor Banner – the Bible Chapel.

Moved: Ms. Trice

Second: Ms. Grannemann

All voted in favor of the motion; 7 – 0. Motion carried.

11. Approving Resolution No. 15-070 – Removal of handicap Parking Permit (Sign and Blue Curb) at the following locations:

- 422 Lamar Street
- 534 Shelbourne Avenue
- 1365 Marlboro Avenue
- 1545 Avon Place
- 1727 Wright Street

Moved: Ms. Trice

Second: Mr. Shattuck

All voted in favor of the motion; 7 – 0. Motion carried.

12. Approving Resolution No. 15-071 – Adding the handicap Parking Permits at the following locations:

- Massoud Valizadeh – 516 Todd Street.
- Lydia Foster – 1412 Sloan Avenue.

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second: Mr. Shattuck

All voted in favor of the motion 7 – 0. Motion carried.

- President McCarthy-Johnson informs the public that items that were tabled from the agenda and will be approved at the next scheduled meeting as follows:

- Item #1 – Council Meeting Minutes for 09/02/15 and 09/09/15.
 - Item #3 - Ordinance No. 2940 – Foreclosed Property Registry.
 - Item #4 - Ordinance No. 2941 – Prohibiting Feeding Wild Animals and Ferrel Cats.
 - Item #5 - Ordinance No. 2942 – Amending Chapter 188 relating to Occupancy Permits.
 - Item #6 - Ordinance No. 2943 – Amending chapter 248 as to park Commercial Vehicles.
 - Item #7 - Resolution No. 15-060 – Amending Proposed Scheduled Fees.
- Solicitor Michael Witherel – Advised that this meeting is not to be adjourned and will continue next week on October 21, 2015, in the event that the October 21st meeting was not advertise.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Jody Guy – 211 Bevington Avenue – Commenting on behalf of the Historic Society regarding the 7 Mile-Marker (History of Wilkinsburg) brass plaque. Historic Society is requesting assistance from DPW to relocate the mile-marker with a footer to the cobblestone area and to complete this request before Thanksgiving.
- Interim Manager – Amanda Ford - Will inform the DPW Director Roy Clark of the request.
 - Ms. Macklin – What happened to the Borough purchased bench?
 - Jody Guy – Explained that the Penn State group has suggested that the bench be placed at the 800 Wood Street parklet.

OLD BUSINESS

- Borough Parking – Marc Taiani – Trucks parked in the residential zone.
- Capital Improvement – Update from Councilman Shattuck regarding Capital Improvement budget items list and from all Department Heads.

New Business

- Ordinance 183-9 – Shouting. – Interim Manager explained that item was placed on the agenda requested by resident Kate Luxemburg. (Typo in the ordinance; should be 11:00 p.m.)
- President McCarthy-Johnson – Makes announcement regarding the School District community Meeting scheduled for October 15th 2015 Pittsburgh Public Schools and Wilkinsburg School District Partnership.
- Announcement for Wilkinsburg Alumni Events for Friday and Saturday October 16th and 17th: Tour of the High School and last football game for the season.
- Announcement for reimbursement for Recycling Performance.

- Liquid Fuels allocations increased in funds to the Borough.
- Announcement Kate Grannemann and Paige Trice – PittServes Volunteers for Fall Clean-Up scheduled for October 24th 2015 at St. James Church. Coordinators are Josie Bryant and Linda Law. (Outdoor projects only for seniors).
- Ms. Trice – Requesting funds for the Clean-Up event and requested the amount of \$250.00.
- President McCarthy-Johnson approved the increase of \$300.00 rather than the \$250.00 due to increase of participants.
- Ms. Macklin Announces – Liam, Pitt Group coming out on November 8th 2015 Clean-Up of Linear Park. Also, holiday decorating event scheduled for November 20th 2015. Tim Weinstein from the School District will be bring children to help decorate the Borough Building.
- Mayor announces Halloween Parade at 4 pm. And Trick and Treat from 5pm – 8pm.
- Mr. Shattuck announces the Mad Dad's Harvest Festival for October 24th 2015.
- Mr. Taiani request that the Mayor pass along to the Police Chief; reporting of a rash of vehicle break-ins along Kelly and Rebecca Avenue. (Franklin, Rebecca and Kelly).
- President McCarthy-Johnson final announcement that the items tabled tonight will be discussed and approved at the next scheduled meeting on October 21st 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
- Solicitor Witherel – Immediately prior to scheduled meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment

*Meeting adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

Council will move into executive session at 8:29 pm for matters of personnel and litigation.

Executive Session ended at 9:35pm with no action taken.

Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson
President Council